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NOTES OF THE WEEK

THE WEEK

The sell-out of French Indo-China to Japan has been completed. Under the new Agreement 40,000 Japanese troops are to be stationed in South Indo-China and eight air bases including one on the new Thailand border, are to be given to Japan. Also two naval bases, Camranh Bay and Saigon, are to be occupied by the Japanese navy. The terms of the Agreement are for the purpose of joint defence, it is stated, of Indo-China. Quick action has been taken by England, the United States of America, the Dominions, India and the Dutch East Indies by freezing the Japanese assets or by denouncing trade treaties or by stopping exports of essential commodities. The effect is to stop all financial transactions on Japanese account for financing trade or other purposes which are not licensed. Chinese assets have also been frozen at the request of China and this is for the purpose of preventing evasion through Japanese-controlled China and of enabling assistance to be given to China by releasing such assets for approved purposes.

Japan has started a radio war against Thailand, alleging that British troops are moving towards the Thai frontier, that British warships are patrolling far off the coast of Thailand, that strong British pressure is being brought to bear on Thailand and that the fate of Syria may be meted out to Thailand at any moment. It is apprehended that these rumours which are like those spread in the case of Indo-China may be a prelude to a similar action against Thailand. But a special Bankok radio broadcast proclaimed to the world that Thailand had nothing to fear from Great Britain and that economically and strategically there was no reason for any threat either from England or from Japan. England had taken certain defence measures, but had done so after informing Thailand. There was a non-aggression pact between Great Britain and Thailand and " the British have never been known to break such pacts."

Germany is finding it increasingly difficult to maintain her communications with the advanced bases in Russia. Guerilla warfare has been intensified. Germany has resorted to desperate tactics and papers have been found on German soldiers in regard to the use of poison gas.

Regarding the magnificent resistance put up by the Russians, M. Lozovsky, Vice-President of the Information Board, stated at a Press conference, that the Smolensk battle " will be studied for many years." Mr. Wendell Willkie, who may be expected to know what he is talking about, stated in an interview in Chicago, that if the Russians held out until September it would mark the beginning of the end of Hitler and then Germany's defeat would be more rapid than most people expected.

Mr. Eden, speaking at a Foreign Press Association luncheon on Tuesday, stated : " A peace blitz would soon be hurled at the Allies. An offer of compromise peace would be a monument of moderation and reasonableness —and hypocrisy." Of course, the Allies were not prepared to negotiate with Hitler at any time on any subject. Only when a repetition of Germany's misdeeds was prevented would the time arrive for peace; but while these military measures must be taken, he added, " it is not part of our purpose to cause Germany or any other country to collapse economically. A starving and bankrupt Germany in the midst of Europe would poison all of us who are her neighbours. That is not sentiment but commonsense."

It is revealed that from the outbreak of the war to the end of June 1941, the total number of enemy planes destroyed was 7,195. Of these, 1,937 were destroyed at sea, 3,566 over Britain, 324 over Europe, 56 in Norway, 57 on the Western front, 327 by the Royal Navy and 1,928 in the Middle East. These figures do not include planes damaged.

Finland has severed diplomatic relations with Great Britain. Being a co-belligerent with Germany, Finland has felt herself unable to continue normal diplomatic relations with Great Britain.

Mr. Eden, British Foreign Secretary, has informed Iran that her own interests required that she should realize the danger of permitting an excessively large number of Germans to reside in that country. There is some reason to think that Iran will respond to this warning against German "'tourists."

A new secret Russian weapon, details about which have not been revealed, is stated to have been invented by M. Kostikov, marked by "extraordinary technical daring and broadness of conception."

It is now disclosed that between July 21 and July 23, an important convoy of ships carrying fresh troops, food and munitions to reinforce British forces in the Mediterranean was successively attacked by a U-boat (which was destroyed), by aircraft (about a dozen of which were either brought down or damaged) and by E-boats (one of which was sunk and another damaged). The convoy arrived safely at its destination, but a British ship, a cruiser and a destroyer were damaged and the destroyer *Fearless* was sunk.

Japan has apologized to the United States for bombing the gunboat "Tutila" during a recent raid on Chungking, capital of China. American authorities have accepted the apology and the incident is closed.

The Egyptian Ministry has been reconstituted and now consists of five Liberals, five Independents and five Saadists. The inclusion of Saadists may result in a more active policy in regard to the war.

Mr. Harry Hopkins who is in Moscow in connexion with American help to Russia has been handed a message by M. Stalin to President Roosevelt.

GERMANY AND THE REMAINING NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

Mr. Sumner Welles told a Press Conference on July 22nd that the United States had information of new aggressive steps planned by Germany against the remaining independent states of Europe. It may be presumed that the states mentioned are Sweden, Switzerland, Spain and Portugal. Turkey may be left out of account as a Middle Eastern state, while Vichy also may be excluded because it is now entirely subservient to Germany. We then come to Sweden. All her neighbours are under some form of German control. It may be taken for granted that she will be unable to resist military measures if they are taken against her by Germany. Sweden depends upon Germany for her export trade, which is mainly iron ore. Swedes are patriotic, but with a powerful neighbour and with Quislings, she feels embarrassed. Sweden had been prevailed upon not to send aid to Finland against Russia and in the Russo-German war, passage for German troops across Swedish territory to attack Russia from Finland was granted. Sweden has been avoiding war for more than a hundred years. She would not help Denmark in 1864, and maintained neutrality in 1870 and in 1914–18. It is possible that as Germany has not much to gain by a direct aggression against Sweden, the present situation may not be changed.

As for Switzerland, though at one time it was necessary for Germany to attack this country, events have happened which have made that move unnecessary. Of course, Germany has been complaining against "unneutral" war reports appearing in Swiss papers. But no action has followed these threats. Switzerland is sending to Germany various industrial and agricultural products. Further there are two factors which should be remembered. If Germany invaded Switzerland, the Royal Air Force offensive will become active. Switzerland also will resist such an attempt. By blowing up the Alpine tunnels communications between Germany and Italy would be prevented for a considerable time.

Now, coming to Spain and Portugal, the occupation of these countries by Germany would give her certain definite strategic advantages. The Falange is favourable to the Axis plans. A land attack on Gibraltar and the closing of the Western Mediterranean by air action would be the objectives of such a move, making possible a renewed attack in North Africa. The Battle of the Atlantic would then flare up again in all its fury, because Germany would have bases from which to operate on British and Allied shipping. Portugal is on the trade route between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, and it will provide Hitler facilities for launching an attack on America. But Portugal, as can be seen from her sending reinforcements to the Azores, is alert.

But Spain, after the Civil War, lacks moral strength and food. The problem of feeding the 24 million people presents a formidable difficulty. England and America will cease to give aid to Spain if she were subjugated by Germany. Mr. Eden's statement of July 24th that trade can flourish only in an atmosphere of good-will sums up the situation very well and it is now for General Franco to decide between "guns and butter." A loan of 24 million pounds was given by England to Spain. But General Franco attributed a motive to

Britain and the United States of America. Whatever be the difficulties of Spain, they would not prevent Hitler subjugating that country if his aim of conquering England would, in his opinion, be facilitated.

THE CAMPAIGN IN RUSSIA

It looks as if the second German attempt at a *Blitzkrieg* in Russia will meet with the same fate as the first. We were repeatedly told by Nazi propagandists, and even by the German High Command, that the Stalin Line had been pierced at many points, that Smolensk had fallen and the road to Moscow was open, that Leningrad in the north and Kiev in the Ukraine were doomed and that the resistance of the Soviet Army had been smashed, only isolated groups offering any resistance to the Germans. But, as *The Hindu's* London correspondent remarks, the facts of geography have given the lie to German claims and Dr. Goebbels, the Nazi Minister for Propaganda, must be a sadly disillusioned man by now!

The fighting last week clearly reveals that the German army in the south is still held up at Zhitomir, 80 miles west of Kiev; that Smolensk is in Russian hands as the result of a battle that will go down in history for the vehemence with which it has been conducted on both sides and the number of men and machines involved; that the joint Finnish-German offensive against the Murmansk-Leningrad Railway between Lake Ladoga and Lake Onega has failed so far. The Finns in the north, indeed claim the capture of Salmi but it has little significance and, despite Marshal Mannerheim's call for action, the Finnish forces are obviously waiting on German success further south to move forward to the attack on Leningrad. In the extreme south, the Germans, the Rumanians and the Hungarians appear to be as far off as ever from the Black Sea port of Odessa, key to the Caucasian oil-fields. In the Ukraine, the Russians have apparently brought up against the Germans very large forces from Kharkov, which is 250 miles south-east of Kiev, and the territorial military headquarters.

The Germans themselves are probably beginning to realize the truth of the saying admitted to the great military expert, Clausewitz that it is impossible to conquer Russia by invading armies; and that only political crisis or revolution is likely to disintegrate Russia. And as *The Times* remarks, there is no sign of either in Russia. And Nazi propagandists are now telling the German people of the sad fate of tank divisions which are cut off by the Russians and are even admitting that Russian storm-troops are deeply penetrating into German lines. The Soviet writer, Alexis Tolstoy writes that German tactics have been carefully studied by the Red Army and effective counter-measures devised to shatter the *Blitzkrieg*. Soviet counter-attacks around Smolensk are proving successful and on balance the Germans are losing heavily. Once the Germans are forced on the defensive, the Russian counter-offensive may be expected to sweep the enemy back and rout him and the war may finish more suddenly than most people imagine.

AMERICAN AID

Over and above the decision to retain army selectees, national guardsmen and reservists in service for the duration of the emergency created by the international situation, steps will soon be taken in the United States to accelerate merchant shipping construction to two vessels daily by early next year. The result of this will be that the merchant marine would be increased from about ten million tons to 16,712,000 tons. The United States Air Force will soon consist of 83 groups instead of 54 groups planned at present, while a very large addition will be made to the pilots trained. Huge ammunition reserves are to be built up in specially selected places. Crews for the expanding fleet will also be increased and money will soon be provided for the construction and improvement of shore bases, many of which are on outlying islands. Appropriation will also be made for naval shipbuilding facilities. This is so far as the defence of America is concerned.

In regard to help to Great Britain, Mr. Harry Hopkins, Personal Envoy to Britain of President Roosevelt, made a remarkable statement on Sunday last. He revealed the different kinds of help which are being provided to Great Britain:

(i) Thousands of American-made planes have been already flown or shipped to Great Britain. There is a vast programme for building thousands of giant Boeing four-engined bombers of such power that Hitler cannot move his factories far enough to escape their devastating power of destruction.

(ii) Several hundred American tanks have already been distributed to different parts of the British Empire and many more are *en route*.

(iii) Ocean-going ships including oil-tankers have been transferred to Britain and a vast merchantship-building programme is in progress so that there will be enough ships to carry food, oil and ammunition.

(iv) Machine tools made in America are to-day being employed in British factories.

(v) Vast quantities of food will be sent to England. America will never allow the British people to go hungry. Shipments will include huge quantities of cheese, pork, eggs, canned salmon, raisins, evaporated milk and concentrated fruit juice.

(vi) Thousands of miscellaneous articles, useful to the war, from aviation petrol to road-building machinery are on their way to England.

"All this is being done," Mr. Hopkins continued, "for safeguarding our heritage of freedom of thought and action." "American destroyers," he said, "are plunging their bows into the waters of the North Atlantic." The Atlantic to-day was merely a channel which was spanned by the bridge of friendship. He continued, "The bridge of friendship and admiration extends from Washington to London and, although unseen, it is so strong that all powers of darkness and Nazi terrorism cannot destroy it."

Here is a passage which will be remembered :

"We no longer measure the distance in miles. The Hun is only 21 miles from Dover, yet he and his pagan ways are 2,000 years away from Dover. Like most Americans I feel that our way of life and our country are threatened by Hitler. Like most Americans, I feel that your fight is the fight for the freedom of the whole world and that it must not and will not fail."

He concluded by saying that President Roosevelt was not a man who gave his words lightly and assured the people of Great Britain : "You are not fighting alone."

MR. CHURCHILL ON WAR PRODUCTION

In the House of Commons on Wednesday, Mr. Winston Churchill refuted the rumours and apprehensions to which expression had been given both in the House and elsewhere about the chaos and inefficiency in the Supply Department. He made the following points :—

(1) Though England was not a Totalitarian State, it was steadily becoming a total war organization.

(2) There was no dispute in progress about priorities for labour or raw materials, factory space or machine tools between departments but on the other hand production in all its forms was gaining steadily and swiftly.

(3) The British Spring and Summer fashions in aircraft this year were farther ahead of the German production than they were last year.

(4) As to production in the last three months, more than twice the field guns that the British made in the Dunkirk period had been made. Munitions were half as much again while the combined programme of merchant and naval shipbuilding was bigger than in any period of the last war. The increase in aircraft was substantial.

(5) As to British production of bombers, the power of bomb discharge on Germany at 1,500 miles range had been doubled. In the next three months, together with American reinforcements, this would be doubled and in the next six months that would again be redoubled.

(6) England was getting the greatest harvest this year.

(7) In the seventh quarter of the war the total output in England of warlike stores had been twice as great as the output in the seventh quarter of the last war and had equalled the output in the fourteenth or the culminating peak quarter of the last war.

(8) Further no stoppage of work of any kind arising from a trade dispute in any part of Great Britain had been experienced.

Mr. Churchill recapitulated the gains so far secured which were :—

(1) Russia has struck back with her magnificent strength and courage, resulting in great slaughter of the Nazi armies.

(2) The help of the United States is growing and is on a gigantic scale and America is advancing in rising wrath to the very verge of war.

(3) The German air superiority has been broken and air attacks on Great Britain, for the time being, have almost ceased.

(4) The Battle of the Atlantic has not been won, but it is progressing in the Allies' favour, thanks to American intervention.

(5) The Nile Valley is safer than two or three months ago.

(6) Germany has lost its pretence of theme and doctrine and sunk even deeper in moral and intellectual degradation and bankruptcy.

Mr. Churchill warned Great Britain to be prepared against invasion :—

(1) German power is still formidable.

(2) She has captured or made vast destructive munitions.

(3) Her centralized war production is still immense.

(4) The conditions of subject peoples under the German yoke are, for the time being, favourable to Germany.

(5) The resources of so many countries are available to her.

Mr. Churchill concluded by saying : "For more than a year we have been all alone; all alone we have had to guard the treasures of mankind. Although there may be profound and encouraging changes in the situation, our own final and commanding responsibilities remain undiminished and we shall only discharge them by continuing to pour out in the common cause the utmost endeavours of strength and virtue and, if need be, to proffer the last drop of our hearts' blood."

RUSSO-POLISH AGREEMENT.

The negotiations which have been going on in the last few weeks between Great Britain, General Sikorski on behalf of Poland and the Soviet Government have now happily concluded with the signing of an agreement on Wednesday evening. According to it :—

(1) Russia recognizes that the Soviet-German treaties of 1939 (as to the division of Poland and other matters) have lost their validity.

(2) Both Poland and Russia will resume diplomatic relations and exchange Ambassadors.

(3) Both countries will co-operate in fighting Germany, their common enemy.

(4) A Polish Army will be formed in U.S.S.R. which will be, for purposes of efficient military co-operation, under the Soviet High Command on which the Polish Army will be represented.

This historic pact is a great achievement and Mr. Eden, British Foreign Secretary, to whose efforts it is mainly due, deserves the warm gratitude of all those who wish success to the Allies. The consequences of the agreement may be summarised as follows :—

(*a*) The British Government have declared that they have entered into no undertakings with Russia affecting the relations of that country with Poland and they do not recognise the territorial changes effected in Poland since 1939.

(*b*) Russia will immediately grant an amnesty to about 500,000 civilian prisoners and 100,000 soldiers in Soviet territories, with complete freedom of movement.

(*c*) The prospects of the integrity independence and sovereignty of pre-1939 Poland being definitely recognized by the Allies, including Russia, are now very bright.

At the conclusion of the ceremony of signing the agreement, General Sikorski said that they were at a turning point in history. Not all questions had been settled between Russia and Poland in the present agreement, but a basis was provided for useful collaboration. The future would depend on the goodwill of both sides. They possessed that goodwill. He thanked the British Government and especially Mr. Eden for all the great work he had done to bring about the agreement. The solidarity of all freedom loving people against Hitlerite Germany would provide a basis for a common victory.

Mr. Maisky, responding, on behalf of Russia, stated that co-operation in fighting the common enemy would have the way to a firm and solid friendship between Poland and Russia when the time came to build up a new Europe, after the war had been won, on the principle of self-determination of nations.

Mr. Churchill said that this memorable episode marked the association of two historic nations of Eastern Europe in the defence of human rights. Here, as a result of the labours of the last few days, was a pact of friendship signed between the Russians and the Poles whose long history had been chequered and darkened by their quarrels, whose future could be lightened by their comradeship. Mr Churchill concluded by saying that it was a sign and proof of the fact that hundreds of millions of men all over the world were coming together on a march against a filthy gangster power which must be effectively and finally destroyed.

CRISIS IN THE FAR EAST

JAPAN MOVES INTO INDO-CHINA

Events in the Far East are moving fast. The Vichy-Japan Agreement has been ratified by the Privy Council at Tokyo and the Japanese have been allowed to use nine air bases in Indo-China, including Saigon and Siemreap near Angkor on the new frontier with Thailand (Siam). Japanese troops have arrived in Southern Indo-China. Japanese warships were reported earlier this week in Camranh Bay and Japanese bombers over Saigon.

These moves by the authorities in Tokyo do not surprise anybody conversant with the foreign policy which Japan has pursued for over a decade. True to this policy, she joined the Axis Pact last September, when she thought Germany would win the Battle of Britain. She soon after extorted economic concessions and military bases at Hanoi and Haiphong in Northern Indo-China, when Britain was still occupied in the west. Now, with Russia defending herself against the Nazi hordes, Japan sees another opportunity of advancing without danger—at least that is what she imagines!

Japanese bases in Indo-China might not be a direct threat to India or Burma, which would still be separated from Indo-China by Thailand. But they would pave the way for further pressure on Thailand and bring Japan nearer the East Indies. Despite denials reports are persistent that Japan is presenting demands for naval and air bases in Thailand to the Thai Government. This clearly shows the hollowness of the talks about "the joint defence of Indo-China" by Vichy and Japan and the flimsiness of the excuses offered by them both, namely, that Great Britain contemplated aggressive action against Indo-China.

The Japanese Press, indeed, as part of the campaign against French Indo-China, referred to Indo-China as a Far Eastern Syria. This description, it may be reiterated, can have no other purpose than to excuse Japanese aggression in that quarter, for there is no parallel between the cases of the two countries. The British went into Syria because, as they said in a note to Vichy, they intend to fight the Germans whenever and wherever they can find them. In addition, the Germans in Syria were violating their own armistice terms. There being no Germans in Indo-China, the British have no reason for sending troops there. And the contrast between Vichy's surrender to the Germans in Syria and to the Japanese in Indo-China with the decision to resist—though in a futile manner—the British in Syria will not be lost on the outside world. Japan, however, is mistaken if she feels that she can get off any more with aggression in the Far East. With the best will in the world to maintain peace in the Pacific, the British will not, as Lord Halifax emphasized in a speech at Vancouver, be "intimidated or bullied into accepting any action by other Powers which might be against their best interests."

DEMOCRATIC POWERS REPLY

And the whole of the "A. B. C. D."—America, Britain, China and the Dutch East Indies—Democratic Front in the Far East is united in its decision to call a halt to Japan's menacing policy. The Governments of the British Commonwealth of Nations, the United States of America, the Royal Netherlands Government, Marshal Ciang Kai-shek and his administration—all these have taken immediate steps to get an economic stanglehood on Japan. While Britain has given notice of her intention to denounce the Anglo-Japanese Treaty of Commerce of 1911, the Indo-Japanese Commercial Convention of 1934 and the Burma-Japan Commercial Convention of 1937, she has also taken parallel action with America in freezing Japanese credits and assets in the Emipre. According to Japanese sources the total Japanese assets in the United States amount approximately to 131 million dollars as against the United States assets of 2,170 million dollars which Japan has frozen by way of retaliation. The figure of 131 million dollars may not look formidable, but the American freezing means that not only are no Japanese assets in American are at the disposal of Japan for trade withdrawal, but also that no American bank can honour any draft on Japanese account. Therefore the continuation process of commercial finance has stopped and Japan cannot get her much-needed supplies of oil and scrap iron. But the export and import trade so vital to Japan will be cut off and she will be forced to limit her operations mainly to the so-called "Yen Block" territories, Manchuko and Korea. Marshal Chiang has himself requested the Allied Governments to freeze Chinese assets and credits in order to defeat any possible manouvre by Japan to exploit the resources of occupied China. Thus while the Chungking Government will get permission in specific cases to have their assets and credits freed for operations as they desire, the Japanese puppet regime in China will not get such benefits.

The "A. B. C. D. Front" has taken all military and other precautionary measures. Mr. Eden, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, said in the House of Commons. "The British Government regard these developments as a potential threat to their own territories and interests in the Far East. In anticipation of them they have been in close communication with the United States Government

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THE JAPANESE NAVY

ITS FIGHTING STRENGTH

Japan's Navy is stated to rank third, after the navies of Britain and the United States of America. At the Washington Naval Conference in 1922 the ratio as to capital ships of the three leading naval powers, Great Britain, the United States of America, and Japan, was laid down at 5—5—3; but towards the end of 1934 Japan gave the required two years' notice of denunciation of the Treaty, and at the Naval Conference held in London next year Japan insisted on parity.

Japan, according to "War Illustrated" had at the end of 1937 under construction three 46,000-ton battleships, while sixty-three other men-of-war were building or projected. The Japanese Fleet had about 200 ships with a total displacement of 756,798 tons and it is possible that by 1941 it will have been increased to 289 ships, displacing 1,109,130 tons. In 1939, a six-year naval building programme was approved by the Japanese Cabinet, when Admiral Yonai, the Navy Minister, stated that the new programme was based on the determination that Japan's Navy must be equal to that of the strongest naval power, and of sufficient strength to deal with any international friction arising out of the construction of the "new order" in Eastern Asia.

The outside world does not know any details of Japan's Navy, but it is open to doubt whether in view of her financial condition she has been able to do more than keep her fleet reasonably up to date. It is possible that Japan may have four or five 16-in. gun battleships of over 40,000 tons under construction in Japanese yards. Two of these, *Mission* and *Takamatu*, were launched in November 1939 and April 1940, respectively, and so may be expected to be ready for sea this year.

Japan has now in service 10 battleships. *Nagato* and *Mutu*, completed in 1920–21, are most powerful, their displacement being 32,720 tons and their main armament eight 16-in. guns. She has further *Huso* and *Yamasira*, with displacements of 29,330 tons, armed with twelve 14-in. and sixteen 6-in. guns and *Ise* and *Hyuga*, with a displacement of 29,900 tons and a primary armament of twelve 14-in. and eighteen 5-5 in. guns. Next there are three ships of the Kongo class, completed in 1913–16; *Kongo*, *Haruma* and *Kirisima*. They have a standard displacement of 29,330 tons and are armed with eight 14-in. and sixteen 6-in. guns. There is a fourth ship of this class, *Hiej*, which was demilitarized in 1930, but has probably now been rearmed.

Japan's heavy cruisers comprise 12 ships, all armed with 8-in. guns. They are divided into four classes called after the first ship mentioned in each: *Atago*, *Takao*, *Tyokai*, and *Maya*, displacing 9,850 tons apiece, and carrying ten 8-in. guns, completed in 1932; *Nati*, *Myoko*, *Asigara* and *Haguro*, 10,000 tons with ten 8-in. guns, completed in 1929; and *Kako*, *Hurutaka*, *Kinugasa* and *Aoba*, displacing 7,100 tons, carrying six 8-in. guns and completed in 1926–27. There are also five old cruisers which are now used as coast defence ships; *Yukumo* (9,010 tons), *Idumo* and *Iwate* (9,180 tons), *Aduma* (8,640 tons), and *Kasuga* (7,080 tons).

Of second-class cruisers, the newest are those of the Mogmai class, all of 8,500 tons and armed with fifteen 6-1 in. guns. They

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CRISIS IN THE FAR EAST—*(Continued from Page 6)*

and, of course, with the Governments in the Dominions. I do not propose to-day to give an account of the measures which the British Government have prepared to meet these and other possible developments. I will give this further information at an early date, but I can state at once certain defence measures in Malaya have already been enforced in view of the plain threat to our territories which the Japanese action implies." And Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham has stated that "come what may," the Empire Forces in the Far East under his command are ready to face any eventuality. The United States of America is also acting speedily. The American Pacific Fleet is reported to have left Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, for an unspecified destination. The organized military forces of the Philippines have been called by President Roosevelt into the armed services of the United States. And the President has nominated Lieut.-General Douglas Macarthur, former United States Chief of Staff, as Commander-in-Chief of the United States and Commonwealth forces in the Philippines. "The American Government's action in establishing this new (Far Eastern) Command only means that they intend to maintain at any cost America's full rights in the Far East," said the new Commander-in-Chief in a declaration to the Press. Mr. Sumner Welles, the American Under-Secretary of State, while intimating to Press representatives in Washington that the United States and Britain were pursuing parallel courses in the Far East, declared that the United States of America would welcome parallel action by other American nations in the economic control measures against Japan.

are *Mogami*, *Miluma*, *Suzuya* and *Kumano*, all completed between 1935 and 1937. In the two latest ships of the class, *Tone* and *Tikuma*, the armament has been reduced and only twelve 6-1 in. guns are mounted instead of fifteen; there are also three ships of the Zintu class (*Zintu*, *Naka* and *Sendai*), six of the Natori class (*Natori*, *Isuzu*, *Kinu*, *Nagara*, *Yura* and *Abukuma*), five Kuma class (*Kuma*, *Tama*, *Oi*, *Kitakami* and *Kiso*), two Tenryu class (*Tenryu* and *Tatuta*) and *Yubari*. These range from 5,195 tons in the Sendai class to Yubari's 2,890 tons. They have 5-5 in. guns.

SEVEN AIRCRAFT CARRIERS

Japan has seven aircraft carriers. The newest are three of the Soryu class—*Soryu*, *Hiryu* and *Syokaku*—displacing 10,050 tons; the remainder are *Ryuzyo*, 7,100 tons, *Hosyo*, 7,470 tons and two of far larger size, *Kaga* and *Akagi*, both displacing 26,900 tons. Two more aircraft carriers are under construction.

Of smaller ships the Japanese have some 130 destroyers (12 Kagero class, 10 of them completing; 10 Asasio, 10 Sigure, 6 Hatuharu, 23 Hubuki, 12 Mutuki, 9 Kamikaze, 15 Akikaze, 7 Wakatake, 19 Kaya and 3 Momo). There are 12 torpedo-boats, with others building. Japan's submarines are divided into four groups, ocean-going, sea-going, minelaying and coastal, displacing 1,400 and 1,000 tons. They number some 72 with others building.

The United States Pacific Fleet is as powerful as the whole Japanese Navy and America's building programme far surpasses that of Japan. Moreover, it may be doubted whether the Japanese fleet would prove as formidable in action as it would appear to be on paper. Hessel Tiltman, " Free Europe's " correspondent in Washington, wrote a few weeks ago " Independent experts consider the Japanese fleet, ship for ship, about 20 per cent inferior in markmanship, protection and manoeuvrability, to the American or British fleet. At Hawaii American naval officers have told me that any American destroyer flotilla leader would be willing to ' take on ' any Japanese cruiser or any American cruiser a Japanese battleship. There is also a widespread impression in the Orient that the Japanese personnel does not compare in quality with the blue-jackets of the two great white navies." Yet, went on Mr. Tiltman, the Japanese are a very brave people and " it would be unwise to minimize the punch packed by the sailors of Nippon."

MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN ENEMY BROADCASTS

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

Positively No Forecasts

In an attempt to discredit British reports of operations in Russia, Berlin (July 14) declares naively that " we in Germany, as a rule, do not go in for prophecies " and alleges that the British Ministry of Information banks on " the shortness of public memory."

In *Mein Kampf* Hitler laid down the rules which still form the basis of the Nazi propaganda policy: He wrote :—

> " The receptive powers of the masses are very restricted and their understanding is feeble. On the other hand, they quickly forget."

Goebbels banked on this when he told German workers in March 1940 that pleasure trips to Britain would be organized within the next four months; when his radio stations prophesied victory over Britain by September 1940; and when he himself, in March of this year, told Spanish correspondents that " before the year is over Germany will finish the war."

So much for German prophecies.

As to the fairness of British reports on operations in Russia, that is what Walt Mittler said in a Topical Talk broadcast from Berlin on June 30, 1941 :—

> " The B. B. C. bulletins cover the war in the east very carefully and reservedly, and they give as much prominence to the German Army bulletins as to the Soviet ones."

A long Three Weeks

When the Fuehrer decided to attack Russia, German official circles confidently forecast that three weeks of *blitz* warfare would suffice to hoist the swastika over the Kremlin.

Moscow is 525 miles from the Russo-German frontier. In the first week, the Germans advanced 200 miles; it took them three more weeks to advance another 100 miles. So after four weeks' fighting they are still 225 miles from their principal objective and the speed of their advance has been reduced by more than 80 per cent.

No wonder the German High Command *communiqués* are getting steadily vaguer.

Lord Haw Haw (July 20) tries to explain away this vagueness. " We are living through a period in which sensational news might be announced at any moment, " he says hopefully, only to add, " or on the other hand nothing of decisive import may be known for some days."

Then he gets a brainwave. " So great and expansive is the theatre of war, " he says, " so defective is the enemy's transport and so imperfect are his communications that the Bolshevik Command cannot form at any one time a full and clear picture of the course which operations are taking. Under these circumstances it would be indeed unwise to enlighten them."

But the German Supreme Command continues to forecast success soon. For instance, we are told on July 19 that " eastwards of the Stalin Line tremendous victories are in the making." Cautiously, the names of the future victors are not mentioned.

Western Front

In the same way the Germans are at pains to minimise their set-backs on the Western Front, where the Royal Air Force is not only providing direct aid to Russia by dislocating rail and sea communications used to supply the forces in the east, but by its devastating daylight sweeps has compelled several hundred *Luftwaffe* fighters to return to Northern France, whence they had been withdrawn for operations against the Soviet.

So, day after day, we hear the monotonous tale that British bombers and fighters " tried " to raid the Channel coast, but were driven off.

When the Royal Air Force knocks out in one daylight blow as much shipping as the entire armada of German U-boats, surface raiders and long-range bombers have ever sunk between them in ten days and nights we are told that they were merely attempting to attack the Dutch coast!

The German radio cannot lie freely when it addresses the people on the home front. On July 6 the German people were told :—" Such attacks can unfortunately not yet be altogether prevented. German defences inflict as much damage as possible on the enemy. In spite of that, these raids will continue to have undeniable effects." And on July 9 :— " These attacks can be as little eliminated as, for instance, artillery fire at the front."

Mr. Churchill and the Air War

On July 14 Mr. Churchill announced that " in the last few weeks alone we have thrown upon Germany about half the tonnage of bombs thrown by the Germans upon our cities during the whole course of the war. But this is only the beginning."

Commenting on this announcement, Berlin could only revive (July 15) the old lie about Britain having started indiscriminate bombing of civilians. We are told once more that the

Fuehrer waited patiently for three months before ordering reprisal raids on British civilians.

But the facts speak for themselves.

Intensive British bombing of industrial and military targets in Germany began in May 1940. The *Luftwaffe* were then not in a position to bomb Britain on the same scale—for two reasons—

(i) The shortest air routes to targets in the Midlands and South England were over neutral Holland and Belgium or over France, where bombers would be intercepted long before they reached their objectives.

(ii) Shortage of aviation spirit forced the Germans to keep long-distance air raids down to a minimum. In fact, in all their campaigns they have carried out big raids only when their aerodromes have been within short range of the targets.

With the fall of France in June 1940, the Germans were able to establish air bases, within half-an-hour's flight of London. By August they were able to send their bomber squadrons to darken the sky over Britain.

That is the real reason for the three months' delay—not any Nazi tenderness for the British people.

Hitler Speaks

Picturing pessimism in Britain over the shipping situation, a Berlin broadcaster (July 16) emphasizes British dependence on American help.

Britain is well aware of her dependence on war supplies from America and equally well aware of the American guarantee that those supplies will continue to arrive.

The German broadcast goes on to recall that last year Hitler said :—

> "One day one of the two belligerent parties will break down, and this will not be National Socialist Germany."

However, we also remember other German statements on this subject. For instance :—

> *Shipping*.—"The sinking and destroying of the whole British shipping will become a matter of two months." (August 7, 1940.)

> *Starvation*.—"Britain's food stocks will last only a couple of weeks." (July 19, 1940.)

> *Collapse*.—"A complete collapse of the British war instrument is imminent this coming winter." (August 9, 1940).

BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES

Germany's Conscripted Allies

The Nazis repeat in their Hindustani broadcast of July 16, that all their European "allies" are collaborating against Bolshevist Russia. This fiction has been pushed so far that even Italy does not believe it. On June 25 an Italian broadcast actually said this: "The presence of the Rumanian forces in the fighting line with the Germans is perhaps the most pleasant surprise of this war". The actual reluctance and resentment of the Rumanians is made perfectly clear from another Axis broadcast on July 2 which said that many Rumanians had gone into hiding in the country rather than obey their calling up notices for the army.

Nazi Propaganda Betrays Japan

In their Hindustani talk on July 15, entitled "Accuracy of German Reports," the Germans say that their news are God's own truth because they are based on actual photographs taken on the front. "Words," we are told, "might lie but pictures cannot." The German abuse of pictures was recently brought to light when they showed, in Finland, an alleged "horror film" of the Soviet bombing of the civilian population.

This picture, however, could immediately be recognized by anyone who knew the region as having been taken during the bombing of Kansu by the Japanese fleet air arm. The details of the landscape and of the operations carried out left no doubt as to the origin of the film.

Holy War against Communism

Exultant over their self-styled successes, the Nazi broadcasts of July 14 (in Hindustani, Persian and Arabic) quote a Spanish paper as stating that Stalin's hopes of spreading Communism have been frustrated. The Soviet political leaders, including Stalin, Molotov and Litvinov, have made it quite clear that the war is in defence of the Fatherland and against Nazi aggression. The Swiss paper *Feuilie Neuchatel*, wrote on June 28: "A crusade against Bolshevism would need a movement with spiritual unity, whereas Germany and her allies are fighting Russia for political reasons. The cause for which those States are fighting Russia is not that of civilization."

Besides, the Nazis stand exposed by their own declarations. On January 12, 1940 a special broadcast to German Youth was sent out by all the German home stations which announced: "We believe in Hitler. . . . The scriptures are dead. We need no fairy tales to-day." And the Nazis have not changed in the last 18 months. Here is an extract from the issue of the *Schwarze Corps*,

the official paper of Hitler's Black Guards, dated May 29, 1941: "We are in the midst of war and the war proves every day how little the religious adherence of the people counts as long as they do their duty to the Fuehrer and the Reich."

Hitler and Islam

The Nazis' Hindustani broadcast of July 18 announces that the Moslems in Croatia (who, incidentally, are a small minority) are very appreciative of Germany's services in the defence of India against Bolshevism. Despite the Axis need for Moslem gratitude, the latter have no cause for thankfulness; least so the Muslims of Croatia. The grim fate of Muslims in Europe under the Nazi heel has been described by Mahmoud-el-Hashimi in the Egyptian paper, *Wafd el Masri*. "When Hitler let loose his Huns in Yugoslavia," we are told, "Moslem towns and villages were among the worst sufferers. Sarajevo's beautiful mosques were rased to the ground. To-day all is sullen and silent in that Moslem town." As regards that other Moslem country in Europe, Albania, the writer goes on to say: "The lot of Albanian Moslem is stark and fearful starvation. Mosques and shrines have been pulled down and plundered and happy hamlets have been turned into concentration camps."

Britain and Iraq

In their Arabic and Persian broadcasts of July 20, the Nazis come forth with the information that the British tyranny of the Iraqis is fiendish and contemptible. It is noteworthy, however, that even this lavish use of adjectives does not save the Nazis. The Iraqis know these self-styled friends for what they really are. The following recent comments of representative Baghdad papers speak for themselves:—

> "There is none but Great Britain on whose alliance and word we can rely, because we find that other great powers attach no value whatsoever to the treaties they enter into with smaller powers." (*Al Zaman.*)

"Germany is well known for her Machiavellian policy—a policy which is not bound by any international convention or treaty. In pursuance of this policy, Germany is out to attain her object by any means, fair or foul." (*Alamul Arabi.*)

Obligation to Syrians

The Nazis' Arabic and Persian broadcasts of July 15 purport to quote a Turkish paper as stating that now that British forces have occupied Syria, nothing more is heard of their promise of Syrian independence.

The offer of Syrian independence was a Free French step, which the British supported. Accordingly, the Armistice terms explicitly pointed out that the Allies have an obligation to the Arab population in the guarantee of independence given at the time of their entry into Syria and that they have no aims in Syria except to prevent it being used as an enemy base.

Mr. Willkie and German Propaganda

By putting in Mr. Wendell Willkie's mouth words to the effect that President Roosevelt had, at their meeting, disclosed his orders to the U.S.A. Navy to bombard the German submarines and the air force, the Nazis' Hindustani broadcast of July 16 attempts to present Mr. Willkie as an opponent of Mr. Roosevelt's policy. Col. Knox's rebuttal of the rumours that the American forces had already operated against the German submarines is a proof of the fact that Mr. Roosevelt did not make the statement wrongly attributed to him. And as for Mr. Willkie, not only did he approve of the President's move in Iceland but he has also recommended its extension.

Nazi Jitters

From a Hungarian paper Germany's Hindustani broadcast of July 18 quotes as follows:—"Mr. Roosevelt's order to open fire on German ships is nothing but a declaration of war."

This is a fair measure of the fear of American action that grips the German leaders. In fact President Roosevelt has given no such orders, though he has pledged his people's word that American supplies will continue to reach Britain. Hitler, however, as long ago as January 30 last tried to frighten America with the empty threat that "every ship within the war zone that comes within the range of German torpedoes will be torpedoed."

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 22nd July 1941:—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during British patrols (not specifically mentioned) over West European coastal waters.

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
July 16, Wednesday.	R.A.F. day bomber attacks on warehouses, stores, docks and shipping at **Rotterdam** (17 ships totalling 90—100,000 tons put out of action; 5 totalling 40—45,000 tons severely damaged; 2 warehouses and a factory set on fire).	5 day bombers.	..
	R.A.F. night bomber attacks on docks and warehouses at **Boulogne**; industrial areas in **Hamburg** and several other objectives in N.W. Germany; shipping off N.W. coast of France (escorted 3,500-ton supply ship damaged); at St. Nazaire (2 ships totalling 4,000 tons hit); in the English Channel (escorted 6,000-ton tanker torpedoed and sunk); off Norwegian coast (3,000-ton ship set on fire).	3 night bombers.	..
July 17, Thursday.	R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter sweeps over English Channel including attack on large escorted steamer off Cap Griz Nez.	6 day fighters (1 pilot safe).	8 day fighters, 1 sea-plane.
	R.A.F. night bomber raids on industrial areas in **Cologne** and elsewhere in the Rhineland; shipping at St. Nazaire (4,000-ton ship hit). Offensive night fighter patrols over occupied territory, including attacks on aerodromes.	1 night bomber.	..
July 18, Friday.	R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter sweeps over English Channel (escorted 6,000-ton supply ship damaged off Dunkirk).	2 day bombers. 1 day fighter.	1 day fighter.
	(No reports of night activity—bad weather).		
July 19, Saturday.	R.A.F. day bomber attacks on shipping off Norwegian coast (supply ship damaged); off Dutch coast (4 ships, totalling 22,000 tons, of escorted convoy sunk); off Norderney Is. (10,000-ton tanker, 6,000-ton ship and two other vessels, totalling 10,000 tons, of escorted convoy sunk); docks and shipping at **Dunkirk.**	2 day htfigers, 3 day bombers.	4 day fighters.
	R.A.F. night bomber attacks on industrial areas in **Hanover** and other targets in N.W. Germany.	2 night bombers.	2 night fighters.
July 20, Sunday.	R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter sweeps over English Channel and N. France, including attacks on shipping off French coast (tanker ablaze, flag-ship and vessels of 8,000 and 2,000 tons hit and left burning).	3 day bombers.	..
	R.A.F. night bomber raids on docks at **Rotterdam**; industrial areas in **Cologne**; **Aachen** and other targets in the Rhineland. R.A.F. night fighter attacks on aerodromes in N. France.		

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
July 21, Monday.	R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter sweeps over English Channel and N. France, including raids on factory at **Lille**; shipping off French coast.	3 day fighters.	8 day fighters.
	R.A.F. day bomber attacks on military camps and other objectives on west coast of Denmark.		
	R.A.F. night bomber raids on railway junctions and industrial areas in **Mannheim** and **Frankfurt-am-Main.**	1 night bomber.	
	R.A.F. night fighter attacks on aerodrome in N. France.		
July 22, Tuesday.	R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter sweeps over English Channel and N. France including raids on ship-building yards at **Le Trait** and a number of aerodromes.	6 day fighters.	9 day fighters.
	R.A.F. night bomber attacks on industrial areas in **Mannheim**; **Frankfurt-am-Main** and other objectives in W. Germany; docks at Rotterdam and Ostend.		
	R.A.F. night fighter attacks on aerodromes in N. France.		

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 22nd July 1941 :—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during enemy attacks (not specifically mentioned) on shipping in North-West European waters.

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
July 16	Nil.	..
July 17	Nil.	..
July 18	Nil.	1 day bomber.
July 19	Nil.	..
July 20	Nil.	..
July 21	Nil.	..
July 22	Nil.	1 night bomber.

DIARY OF THE WAR

AIR ACTIVITY OVER ENGLAND AND GERMANY

25th July.—It was officially announced that the Royal Air Force bombed the enemy warship Gneisenau at Brest and hit again the already damaged Scarnhorst which had moved to La Pallice. Great damage was done to Brest dockyard where the enemy cruiser Prinz Eugen was berthed.

Royal Air Force attacks on Germany proper were chiefly concentrated on Kiel and Emden.

26th July.—The Royal Air Force offensive was mainly concentrated on Hanover and Hamburg, where docks, industries and communications were heavily bombed. A small force of four-engined bombers also raided Berlin.

27th July.—An Air Ministry Communique stated that bombs were dropped on the port of Emden.

28th July.—On account of unfavourable weather Royal Air Force activities over France were restricted but a small force attacked docks in Dunkirk.

German planes raided London in somewhat larger numbers than in recent weeks but the damage was slight.

29th July.—Bombs were dropped on a few places in East Anglia by German planes but little damage and no deaths resulted.

31st July.—The official German News Agency admitted British raids on Western Germany. Cologne and Aachen were attacked as also shipping off the Heligoland Bight, many enemy vessels being destroyed.

A Hamburg paper reported that the Royal Air Force dropped over Germany imitation German clothes and other ration cards.

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

25th July.—It was reported that two German divisions had left Libya.

Mr. Sumner Welles, the Acting Secretary of State flatly denied the report that the United States intended to occupy Liberia.

26th July.—An E-boat attack on the port of Valetta in Malta was repulsed with heavy losses. Twelve enemy E-boats were sunk and five planes were shot down.

It was authoritatively stated that the British Government were negotiating with the Italian Government about the evacuation of distressed Italians in Ethiopia.

27th July.—Mr. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty disclosed in a broadcast the safe and timely arrival of an important British convoy of troops and munitions that was involved in a two-day battle in the Mediterranean. The British destroyer " Fearless " was sunk but many enemy planes were shot down.

Slight damage was caused when bombs were dropped on Alexandria.

28th July.—The remnants of Italian forces in Abyssinia were reported to have been surrounded. Benghazi harbour was raided by the Royal Air Force which also intercepted two Savoia 79's off Malta and shot down both.

29th July.—German patrols were beaten back on the Libyan frontier and the British captured many prisoners.

The Royal Air Force made extensive raids on aerodromes in Sicily. Thirty-six Italian planes were destroyed.

30th July.—It was reported that a German dive-bombing attack on British shipping off the coast of Cyrenaica was beaten off with loss to the enemy.

31st July.—The Royal Air Force destroyed a large number of enemy aircraft in an attack on the Sardinian base of Elmas.

AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

25th July.—President Roosevelt disclosed that the United States would retaliate with specific action against Japan's occupation of bases in Indo-China.

Mr. Roosevelt said that the United States had allowed Japan to obtain oil from the United States so far in order to prevent Japan going to the Dutch East Indies to get it.

27th July.—Mr. Harry Hopkins, personal envoy to Britain of President Roosevelt declared in a broadcast that no enemy action could prevent American aid reaching Britain, Russia and China, namely, the supply of planes, food, oil and munitions.

28th July.—Mr. Sumner Welles, Acting Secretary of State, stated at Washington that the United States and Great Britain were pursuing parallel courses in the Far East and intimated that the United States would welcome parallel action by other American nations in economic control measures against Japan.

The United States House of Representatives passed the 8,063 million dollar Defence Appropriation Bill.

29th July.—Col. Knox, Secretary of the United States Navy urged prompt decision by America to resist Japanese aggression in the Far East.

Col. Knox revealed to the Senate Naval Committee that the captain of an American destroyer had to drop three depth charges off the coast of Greenland in order to ward off attack by what he took to be a submarine.

30th July.—President Roosevelt called on the United States Congress to pass legislation, controlling prices and rents.

31st July.—Japan apologised to the United States for the bombing of the United States gunboat *Tutilla* during an air raid in China but Mr. Sumner Welles, acting Secretary of State, said that the apology was insufficient to close the incident.

Mr. Harry Hopkins, Mr. Roosevelt's Personal Envoy, saw M. Stalin at Moscow and was handed a message for the United States President.

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

25th July.—It was officially reported in Sofia that Soviet planes bombed Ruschuk, Pleven and Lovetz in Bulgaria.

Soviet anti-aircraft guns and fighters dispersed German bombers that attempted to raid Moscow in two divisions.

26th July.—Constanza was heavily bombed by Russian planes.

The Finns claimed an advance North-east of Lake Ladoga.

27th July.—Reports indicated no change in the Soviet front from the Arctic to the Black Sea. Two German divisions were wiped out. The Finns claimed the occupation of Salmi.

A Soviet Military Mission arrived in New York *en route* to Washington.

28th July.—Constanza was again bombed by the Russian Air Force.

The destruction of German naval units in the Baltic was claimed by the Russians as well as of 109 enemy planes. The Russians lost only 36 planes.

The Tass Agency stated that the Soviet Foreign office had asked the Swedish Government to make representations to Helsinki, regarding illegal detention of Soviet diplomatic representatives by Finland.

The Soviet Military Mission, after being received by the Acting Secretary of State at Washington, conferred with the Chief of the Staff of the United States Army.

29th July.—An attempt on another mass raid by enemy planes on Moscow was defeated by Soviet counter-attack.

The Battle for Smolensk and the Battle for the Ukraine continued with unabated fury but indications were that the German offensive was breaking.

Finland, as a "co-belligerent with Germany" requested the severance of diplomatic relations with Britain.

30th July.—A Russo-Polish Agreement was signed in London in the presence of Mr. Churchill, by which the territorial changes made in Poland as a result of the Soviet-German treaties of 1939 were declared void.

A fierce Soviet counter-offensive was reported from the Smolensk sector and it appeared as if the German drive on Moscow had definitely failed.

The Berlin radio admitted that British torpedo bombers, from an aircraft-carrier in Arctic, made a strong attack, coinciding with the appearance of Russian planes, on a northern Norwegian harbour.

31st July.—Extensive activities by the Russian Air Force were reported; an enemy attempt to raid Leningrad was foiled.

Four enemy supply ships were sunk when British Naval aircraft made heavy raids on the harbours of Kirkenes and Petsamo in Northern Scandinavia.

BALKANS, TURKEY, IRAQ, IRAN

26th July.—The Syrian campaign came to a close with the entry of General de Gaulle in Beirut.

28th July.—The official German News Agency denied the Soviet allegation that Hitler planned an attack on Turkey. This was apparently in reply to the Soviet's charges, based on documents seized from German troops, that comprehensive directions had been issued by the German High Command for an attack on Turkey.

29th July.—It was persistently rumoured in diplomatic circles in Ankara that the Soviet Union would renew its assurances of friendship for Turkey.

31st July.—Turkey notified the Vichy Ambassador that she will not, until the end of the war, release the Vichy ships interned in Turkish waters.

The Egyptian Cabinet resigned but the Premier, Sirry Pasha, formed a new one.

SHIPPING

25th July.—Speaking at Ottawa the Canadian Minister of Munitions stated: "June and July have been the best months for the number of ships reaching Britain safely. I believe that the worst of the battle of the Atlantic is now over for Britain."

27th July.—The German ship "Erlangen" (6,101 tons) which attempted to run the blockade was intercepted by British vessels.

FAR EAST

25th July.—Mr. Eden, Foreign Secretary, condemned in the House of Commons the Japanese Government's action in presenting demands to the Vichy Government who yielded to them, for the occupation of air and naval bases in Southern Indo-China. He announced that Britain and United States were consulting each other on the steps to be taken, also that the Malayan defences had been strengthened.

Mr. Eden received M. Maisky, the Russian Ambassador and Dr. Wellington Koo, the Chinese Ambassador.

The Thailand Premier declared that Thailand would definitely remain neutral.

26th July.—The freezing of all Japanese assets and credits was ordered by the United States of America and the British Commonwealth of Nations including India. Chinese assests were included in the ban, at the specific request of the Chunking Government in order that Japan might not exploit occupied countries to defeat the American and British moves.

The Japanese Foreign and Finance Ministers reported to the Emperor on the international situation. Japan froze American and British assets in her territory.

It was reported that the United States Pacific fleet had left Pearl Horbour, Hawaii, for an unknown destination.

27th July.—President Roosevelt announced that all American forces in the Philippines would be grouped under one command, designated the United States Command in the Far East, and that Lt.-Genl. Douglas MacArthur, former United States Chief of Staff, would be the Commander-in-Chief.

28th July.—The Japanese Privy Council ratified the agreement with Vichy, and Japanese troops began disembarking in Southern Indo-China. It was reported that the Japanese would be allowed to use nine air bases under the agreement, including Saigon.

An unconfirmed Chunking report stated that Japan had presented demands for naval and air bases in Thailand to the Thai Government.

The Dutch East Indies suspended foreign exchange transactions with Japan and made all exports to Japan and Japanese-occupied countries liable to special licences.

29th July.—The Japanese occupied Camranh Bay. The number of Japanese troops in Indo-China exceeded 40,000.

It was reported that the Dutch East Indies had suspended the Oil Pact with Japan.

A continuous radio campaign was launched by Japan against Thailand, similar to the recent press campaign against Indo-China, alleging British influence in Thailand.

The Japanese air force made an indiscriminate attack on civilian property in Chengtu in the Chinese province of Szechwan.

Further military precautions were announced in Australia.

30th July.—A special broadcast from the Bangkok radio expressed complete confidence in Britain's friendship for Thailand.

31st July.—The Chinese Foreign Minister appealed for joint action by Britain, United States of America and China against Japanese aggression in the Far East.

VICHY

26th July.—M. Max Dormoy, former Socialist Minister of France, was killed in his room at a hotel in Mont Elimar, owing to an explosion believed to have been caused by a time-bomb.

The Vichy Cabinet met presumably to give final touches to the agreement with Japan, granting the latter air bases and other facilities in Indo-China.

29th July.—Vichy published the Protocol to the agreement with Japan, in which Japan undertook to "respect" French sovereignty and interests in Indo-China.

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

26th July.—Dr. Benes, Head of the Czechoslovak Government in London, in a broadcast to his country, welcomed the British decision to grant full recognition to his Government and explained the value of the recent agreement arrived at with Russia.

27th July.—The German authorities in Yugoslavia blamed Communists for numerous acts of sabotage and had a number of them shot.

The German Secret Police arrested a large number of railwaymen following a collision between a goods train and a German troop train near Warsaw in which over 200 casualties were reported.

31st July.—The Polish Foreign Minister and two other Ministers resigned following the signature of the Polish-Russian Pact.

The United States of America accorded recognition to the Czechoslovak Government in London.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

27th July.—An official announcement in Kabul reiterated Afghanistan's neutrality in the present war.

The Portuguese President, on a visit to the Azores, affirmed Portugal's desire to live in peace but to defend herself against aggression.

It was reported (but later denied) that hostilities between Peru and Equador had ceased in response to an appeal by the United States, Argentina and Brazil for a peaceful solution of their dispute.

The Germans were stated to have protested to the Swedish Government against the blowing up of two troop trains on their way to Finland through Sweden.

27th July.—The German Consul in the Bolivian town of Cochabamba, was arrested for complicity in an attempted Nazi *putsch*.

The Argentine authorities seized further incriminating materials from the baggage of a Nazi diplomat.

30th July.—Mr. Eden stated in the Commons that Britain had drawn the Iran Government's attention to the danger, in Iran's own interests, of continuing to permit an excessively large number of Germans to reside in their country.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Director of Information, Madras.]

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